

A RESOURCE MANAGER FOR PROVIDING USER-DEPENDENT ACCESS
CONTROL FOR A NETWORK OF CONSUMER ELECTRONIC DEVICES

ABSTRACT

5 A method of providing a user-dependent access control system for a
network of consumer electronic devices. In one embodiment, the method is
implemented as a software resource manager which provides a centralized
resource allocation, reservation and access control functionalities for a home
server of a home entertainment system. Particularly, user applications of the
10 home server receive service requests from a user or other entities, and
determines whether any predetermined policy statements would be violated if
the requested services are performed. The software resource manager also
determines whether the necessary resources are available. If the requested
services do not violate any policy statements and if the necessary resources are
15 available, the software resource manager then sends appropriate control
signals to the source and destination devices causing them to perform the
requested media services. In one embodiment, the devices of the network are
hidden from the users and, thus, the users have no direct control over the
devices. In this manner, resources of a network of consumer electronic device
20 can be protected from misuse.

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